

April 12, 1999

FACT SHEET

SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO EPA's FINAL AIR TOXICS STANDARD FOR THE SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AND OTHER PROCESSES SUBJECT TO THE NEGOTIATED REGULATION FOR EQUIPMENT LEAKS ("HON")

TODAY'S ACTION

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing final technical amendments to the standard that controls hazardous air pollutants (HAP), also called toxic air pollutants, generated by the synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry (SOCMI) and several other processes. This standard is commonly referred to as the "HON."
- ◆ The revisions that EPA is issuing are minor technical corrections that are not controversial and do not substantively change the requirements of the HON. An example of these types of changes is correcting cross references. This action will not change the predicted emission reductions from affected facilities or the cost of the final rule.
- ◆ The HON was issued as subparts F, G, H, and I in 40 CFR part 63 on April 22, 1994 (59 FR 19402), and June 6, 1994 (59 FR 29196). Since then, there have been several amendments to clarify various aspects of the rule. Readers should see the following Federal Register documents for more information: September 20, 1994 (59 FR 48175); October 24, 1994 (59 FR 53359); October 28, 1994 (59 FR 54131); January 27, 1995 (60 FR 5321); April 10, 1995 (60 FR 18020); April 10, 1995 (60 FR 18026); December 12, 1995 (60 FR 63624); February 29, 1996 (61 FR 7716); June 20, 1996 (61 FR 31435); August 26, 1996 (61 FR 43698); December 5, 1996 (61 FR 64571); January 17, 1997 (62 FR 2721); August 22, 1997 (62 FR 44608); and December 9, 1998 (63 FR 67787).

BACKGROUND

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. Air toxics are those pollutants known or suspected of causing cancer or other serious health effects (e.g., reproductive effects and birth defects).
- ◆ On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of source categories that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons annually or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that will require the application of stringent air pollution controls, i.e., MACT.
- ◆ In its July 16, 1992, published list of industry groups to be regulated, EPA identified SOCMI as a major source of air toxics.

BENEFITS OF EPA'S HON RULE

- ◆ EPA's final HON rule (the 1994 final rule as revised by today's clarifications) regulates the emissions of 111 of the pollutants identified in the Clean Air Act's list of 188 HAP.
- ◆ EPA's final HON rule is expected to reduce emissions of HAP from the SOCMI industry by 510,000 tons/year and emissions of smog-causing volatile organic compounds (VOC) by 1,000,000 tons/year. This represents about an 80 percent reduction from current SOCMI emission levels.
- ◆ Today's action does not affect the benefits or the costs of EPA's final HON rule.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- ◆ Interested parties can download the Federal Register notice and revisions from the EPA's web site on the Internet under recent actions at the following address: (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>). These revisions can also be obtained from the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, by telephone (202) 260-7548 or by electronic mail, a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying). The HON docket numbers are A-90-19 through A-90-23. For questions about this action, contact Mary Tom Kissell at (919) 541-4516 or by electronic mail, kissell.mary@epamail.epa.gov.
- ◆ The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's homepage address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>).

ORGANIZATION OF RULE

- ◆ The HON is divided into four subparts in Part 63 of Title 40 of the CFR:
 - Subpart F** -- definitions, general information on compliance, reporting and recordkeeping, for sources subject to subparts G and H;
 - Subpart G** -- emission standards for process vents, storage vessels, transfer operations, and wastewater treatment systems;
 - Subpart H** -- emission standards for equipment leaks at HON sources;
 - Subpart I** -- emission standards for equipment leaks at non-HON sources.